

FARMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICY AND PROCEDURE



Policy Number:
241-09

Effective Date:
09/28/2016

Subject:
Motorcycle Patrol

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S.D. Hebbe".

Steven D. Hebbe, Chief of Police



PURPOSE:

To establish guidelines for the operation of motorcycle patrol.

POLICY:

It is the policy of the Farmington Police Department to utilize motorcycle patrol to provide an agile, in-traffic vehicle with the primary function of traffic law enforcement and traffic accident investigation.

PROCEDURE:

The conditions, limitations and authorization for their usage are as follows:

1. Motorcycle patrol is not utilized during periods of inclement weather which could endanger the safety of the officer, at the discretion of the motorcycle patrol officer or the shift supervisor;
2. Motorcycles are not operated without the use of an approved, properly secured motorcycle helmet;
3. Motorcycles do not carry passengers nor are they used to transport prisoners;
4. Motorcycle patrol is used to supplement the basic patrol function, as necessary, at the discretion of the shift supervisor, Chief of Police or designee.

Qualification and Training:

The operation of a police motorcycle requires specialized initial training and ongoing in-service training for safe operation. Prior to use of the police motorcycle, Officers must receive training on the use and function of the police motorcycle which includes an 80 hour Basic Police Motorcycle Operator course followed by a 40 hour Field Training Evaluation. In addition to the basic training and field evaluation, any officer assigned to the motor unit must complete annual recertification training. A minimum of 10 hours per quarter of in-service training is recommended. Re-certification training should be concluded with a skills test. These tests will be determined and administered by a certified motorcycle instructor.

In the event the officer assigned to the motor unit should fail their annual re-certification skills test, the officer will be required to complete remedial training prior to resuming patrol on the police motorcycle. Remedial training will be determined by the motorcycle instructors on a case by case basis. Upon successful completion of remedial training, the officer will be allowed to resume patrol on the police motorcycle. Upon a failing score on remedial training skills test, the officer will be recommended for removal from their assignment on the police motorcycle.

Every block of Police Motorcycle Training shall be conducted by a certified police motorcycle instructor.

1. Motorcycles are only operated by those officers who are selected as a Motorcycle Officer, pursuant to the Specialty Position Policy and Procedure, and who are trained in the use and operation of the motorcycle;
2. Personnel selected for the position of Motorcycle Officer must be able to qualify for the position as established by the Motorcycle Officer Job description;
3. Personnel selected for the position of Motorcycle Officer must receive training in the operation of the motorcycle, and must complete a Police Motorcycle Rider course, as determined by a certified motorcycle instructor;
4. Personnel selected for the position of Motorcycle Officer must obtain and maintain a valid New Mexico motorcycle endorsement.

Maintenance:

The condition and maintenance of the motorcycle are the responsibility of the assigned officer. Repairs and maintenance procedures are performed by an approved motorcycle mechanic.

Police Motorcycles are stored at the Farmington Police Department or other approved locations. Depending on the circumstances, Police Motorcycle Officers may be allowed to keep their assigned motorcycle at their residence. In all cases, the motorcycle is protected from the elements and all precautions against theft and vandalism are taken.

Equipment and Uniform:

The police motorcycle is equipped with emergency lights and siren, two-way police radio, speed measuring device, and an audio/visual recording device. Additional equipment carried on the motorcycle, at a minimum, is as follows:

1. Orange reflective safety vest;
2. Measuring device;
3. Traffic Accident and Traffic Law Enforcement forms.

Motorcycle officers wear the standard Department uniform, with the following exceptions or additions:

1. Department issued DOT approved helmet;
2. Department issued eye protection, or prescription glasses;
3. Gloves; and
4. Motorcycle-style breeches, boots and shirts.